



## U.S. troops take Oath of Citizenship

Story by Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks

MNC-I PAO

In the true spirit of freedom and liberty that the United States has offered since its inception 230 years ago, servicemembers who have dedicated their lives to a country they did not even belong to, received their citizenship at Al Faw Palace, here today.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. James P. Hunter, MNC-I PAO

**John Bulger, Rome District Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service, raises his right hand and recites the Oath of Citizenship to troops here today.**

Most of these servicemembers have been serving in the U.S. military for several years. Now, with an executive order from President George W. Bush, they were declared U.S. citizens after taking the Oath of Citizenship.

The 88 servicemembers, who come from 27 different countries, renounced their loyalty to all foreign princes, potentates, states and sovereignties that they may have been a part of, and earned citizenship

in the country they defend and fight for today.

Since the servicemembers were forward deployed, it caused a significant problem for them to complete certain parts of the citizenship process, primarily an interview with a Department of Homeland Security official. In order to make the process easier and safer for all those involved, the citizenship candidates were able to do their interviews through web casts.

The candidates were joined by fellow servicemembers as they were celebrated for successfully completing the citizenship process on one of America's most beloved holidays, Independence Day.

"It's a great day to be an American, and even better day to become



U.S. Army photo by Spc. James P. Hunter, MNC-I PAO

**U.S. troops recite the Oath of Citizenship at the Al Faw Palace today. Eighty-eight troops from 27 different countries earned their citizenship.**

one," said John Bulger, Rome District Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service.

For those gaining their citizenship, it's a well earned and deserved  
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# 49th MP's equip Iraqi Police with weapons

Story by

**Spc. James P. Hunter**

MNC-I PAO

Personnel within the Police Transition Teams in Baghdad believe that for the Iraqi Police to achieve peace and security throughout Iraq, they need to be fully capable and operational.

In order to become fully operational, they need all the necessary items of equipment to complete the mission.

A logistics PTT with the 49th Military Police Brigade delivered 4,015 9 mm pistols to the Central Maintenance and Logistic Facility in Baghdad, Sunday.

The delivery was one of many, and also one of the last deliveries the PTT has conducted during their tenure in Iraq.

They have delivered thousands of weapons, ammunition, radios, vehicles, body armor and uniforms, said Maj. Timothy Johnston, logistics officer, 49th MP Bde.

"Our relationship with the IP's is vital," he said. "If we cannot help them secure their country, then we cannot leave. This is directly linked to them taking on the security role of their country. It comes on us to provide them with the needed equipment to do the job."

The CMF receives the equipment from the PTT and distributes them to various Iraqi Police Stations in Baghdad.

When the 49th first arrived in country, Johnston said the Iraqi Police were at a

30% operational level with their equipment needs.

Now, with the new delivery, the IP's are sitting at 90-95% operational, said Master Sgt. Michael Dawson, logistics NCOIC, 49th MP BDE.

Currently, there are more than 17,000 Iraqi policemen in Baghdad, with a goal of 25,000 IP's to be met in the future.

Every IP who has been through the Baghdad Police Academy, assigned to a district and given a police badge has a weapon to help defend themselves and the citizens throughout Baghdad, Johnston said.

The new delivery of weapons allows the CMF to keep enough in stock for the next few graduating classes, he added, until the Iraqis meet their goal of 25,000 police officers patrolling the streets of Baghdad.

Gen. Kalile, general, CMF, said the Iraqi Police now have enough weapons to help secure Iraq's interior defense.

"It's vital that the Iraqi police are operational so they can win the hearts and souls of the communities and show them they can gain the security for the future of Iraq," Johnston said. "The Iraqi police were not a big security force before the downfall of the Saddam regime, unlike his personal security force and the Iraqi army. Now they are taking a bigger role and they are helping the communities, becoming fully operational and showing they can maintain peace and security."

Kalile has been on the police force since

1981, and feels the equipment is important for the IP's because of the mission they have come upon.

He believes there are militias conducting various crimes throughout Iraq, to include theft and murder.

Baghdad needs a high level of security to gain total control of the city, he added. These weapons will help protect them, and, if need be, help take out the enemy.

"They have to search vehicles, interact with and have eyes on the people, know what is going on in the inner cities and on the streets," Kalile said. "If we want security in this country, they have to arrest, interrogate and take responsibility in dealing with the criminals and insurgents."

Johnston believes the equipment his team has delivered since coming into country brings a sense of professionalism to the Iraqi police force.

He remembers seeing Iraqi police standing guard in flip-flops and shorts, without the needed amount of ammunition.

Now, most IP's he runs into are wearing their body armor, are in the proper uniform and have enough ammunition, if the situation arises, to use.

"The communities are giving them the respect they should," Johnston said, "and that is the key to building that (communal) relationship they sorely need so it can lead to information on the (whereabouts) of insurgents and criminals, creating a better and secured Iraq."

## Camp Victory Three-day Forecast

### Wednesday



Sunny  
High: 112 F  
Low: 86 F

### Thursday



Sunny  
High: 112 F  
Low: 87 F

### Friday



Sunny  
High: 113 F  
Low: 88 F





# Troops bring smiles, toys to Iraqi children

**Story and photos by  
Sgt. Rachel Brune**  
101st Sustainment Bde.

Soldiers from across the 142nd Corps Support Battalion brought smiles and toys to children in one of Iraq's northernmost provinces during a humanitarian assistance drop in Dahuk, June 21.

"The 142nd enjoys this just as much as the kids enjoy it," said Lt. Col. Ronald Green, battalion commander. "This will stay in the minds and hearts of my Soldiers."

Soldiers handed out Beanie Babies, sports uniforms, soccer balls, teddy bears and candy, donated by a variety of organizations in the United States, according to Capt. John P. Smith, battalion chaplain.

Lake Zurich High School, in Lake Zurich, Ill., sent the school uniforms, as well as "boxes and boxes" of teddy bears, said Smith. The school has been in contact with Maj. Richard Lazik, battalion support operations OIC, a native of Niles, Ill.

netted more than 4,000 Beanie Babies for Iraqi children. Some of the stuffed toys are still on their way, so the 352nd Corps Support Battalion, replacing the 142nd, will still have plenty of toys to conduct their own humanitarian mission, said Green.

"This [mission] provides the opportunity to see Iraq in the daytime and see how we're providing liberation to the Iraqis," said Smith. Battalion Soldiers normally conduct combat logistical patrols during the nighttime hours.

Along with the 142nd Soldiers, 352nd Soldiers accompanied the mission north.

Upon arrival in the Dahuk area, the local civil affairs unit, Company C, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, a Reserve unit from Utica, N.Y., welcomed the Soldiers with breakfast and a cultural awareness briefing.

Navy Lt. Kim DaCosta spoke to the Soldiers regarding

to the children.

Each child was to receive one toy. After receiving his or her Beanie Baby or other item, the Soldiers marked the child's left hand with a smiley face.

The area is mostly rural,

through an interpreter, telling them of the gifts his Soldiers had to give them.

After the preliminary ceremonies were over, the Soldiers lined up to hand out the toys. The children came on in a



*Soldiers of the 142nd Corps Support Battalion line up to distribute school supplies and stuffed animals to children in the Dahuk Province during a humanitarian assistance mission June 21.*



*Maj. Richard Lazik, battalion support operations OIC, 142nd Corps Support Battalion, hands a piece of candy to a child during a humanitarian assistance drop in northern Iraq June 21.*

Green's mother coordinated with a Dayton, Ohio, radio station, "Rebel Radio" and disc jockey "Flying Brian," for a drive which

the culture and customs of the primarily Kurdish area they were to visit. She also outlined the strategy for handing out the toys

with agriculture as the primary means of subsistence, according to Maj. Jack LoMedico, company commander, a New York state parole officer from Syracuse, N.Y. LoMedico's unit is primarily concerned with water projects for the people of the area.

In the town, an individual displaced persons camp for persons of Kurdish descent forcibly removed from their homes under Saddam Hussein's regime, the Soldiers dismounted from their vehicles holding plastic bags full of toys. As the children caught sight of the items, they quickly began to gather in the courtyard of the school building.

Two lines of neatly-dressed girls sang a song with clapping motions for the Soldiers, as the mayor of the town presented Green with a Kurdish flag.

The children sat in a large semicircle as Green spoke to them

rush, hoping for one of the soccer balls, or perhaps a certain Beanie Baby or teddy bear.

The crowd quickly grew larger than the organizational system could handle, so the adults brought the children into the classrooms, and the Soldiers visited one by one to hand out their goodies. Finally, the Soldiers handed out their last pieces of candy and stuffed, furry friends.

Tired, the Soldiers snapped a few last photos, said their last goodbyes and headed back to vehicles. Some Soldiers, who participated in the 142nd humanitarian assistance drop in Zahko in March, compared the two experiences. Other Soldiers took the opportunity to rehydrate and check out their digital photographs.

"I believe we've made an impression on this village," said Green. He added: "I think we were able to do a great thing."

## Chaplain's corner

### GI Party

*"In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness," Matthew 23:28*

Being the obsessive person that I am, I love to throw my own personal GI party in my CHU (Containerized Housing Unit). I throw myself into a cleaning frenzy about every other day on my half of the room. My chaplain buddy even bought me a duster! The problem is that it never stays clean. The Bible tells me, "Dust thou art and dust thou shall return." (Genesis 3:19) The problem is with so much dust, I can't figure out whose coming and whose going!

One thing I have learned these last dusty months is that if my half of the room looks reasonably straight and orderly, it appears to be clean – even when it really wasn't. Think about it, if you open the door to my CHU and see the bed sheets square and tight enough to bounce a Commander's Coin would you look into the corners of the bedposts for dust?

Over these last dusty days, I have concentrated more on the appearance of a clean room and have slothfully neglected a true GI, toothbrush in the corner, cleaning party. I will admit that



CH (MAJ) Charles M. Herring  
Religious Support Operations  
MNC-I Chaplain Office

I momentarily gave in to the cleaning philosophy of an elderly cousin on my Dad's side of the family that is remembered as saying, "I know cleanliness is next to Godliness but a little nastiness never killed nobody."

My compromise was not only expedient, it was persuasive! Some evenings when I returned to my CHU, I even fooled myself, opening the door and seeing that straight and square bunk all made taunt and tight. But when I opened the blinds it was a different picture all together. My side of the room was revealed for what it was – dusty, shamefully dusty, nasty dusty, ungodly dusty!

It was the scribes and Pharisees in Jesus' day that were hypocrites who concentrated on the appearance of holiness while neglecting true inner holiness. When the "sonshine" of Jesus shone upon them the truth about their outward appearance of holiness was revealed. Jesus did not say their outward holiness was wrong – it was their use of outward holiness to cover up their wickedness that was wrong. They were in dire need of a spiritual GI party!

Keeping my half of the room squared away is not wrong, but pretending the room of my heart is clean when it is spiritually "dusty" is definitely wrong. It's time for a heart and soul GI party. Now where is my bucket and Lysol concentrate? If my roommate hid those again....

## CITIZENSHIP

reward for honorable and dedicated service.

"I think it was a great opportunity to earn my citizenship in the military," said Sgt. Gustave A. Farfan, motor transport chief, Marine Aircraft Group 16. "It does feel a little different. Most of all to me, it signifies six and a half years of honorable service."

There is pride, not only in the work he has put in to earn his citizenship, it is also the tremendous effort his family has put in to help him and themselves.

"Over the years, my family has put in a lot of hard work into this country. They have been in the U.S. for over 20 years, and the whole 20 years have been working for what they have, putting into the country, never taking from the country," said Farfan. "I think that's what signifies this for me. It's more of a reward for the hard work we have put in."

Farfan says that his main reason for earning his citizenship is to provide for his family,

including his two young daughters. The Marine Corps has been a tremendous part of earning a better life for him and his family.

General George W. Casey and Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, were on hand to present Farfan and the rest of America's newest citizens with their

"Thank all of you for your service to your country and to welcome you as the most deserving new citizens of the United States of America," said Casey.

General Chiarelli echoed the same sentiment.

"The citizen is the life blood of any freedom loving nation. It is the citizen that created our country and gives power to its government, and it is the citizen we celebrate today," said Chiarelli. "Today we are here to nationalize and welcome America's newest citizens."

The fourth of July was an exceptionally fitting day for these men and women to receive their citizenship, Chiarelli added.

The president also had a message to pass on to the newly nationalized citizen that he sent through a video. Expressing how, for these new citizens, America was no longer simply a place where they live.

"Today, America is more than your home; it's your country," said Bush.

"This is one of the things that make our country so unique. With a single oath, all at once you become as fully American as the most direct descendant of a founding father."



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jason B. Baker, MNC-I PAO

U.S. troops raise their right hands while they take the Oath of Citizenship at the Al Faw Palace, today.

certificates and to express their gratitude, pride and congratulations to all the servicemembers not only for earning their citizenship, but also for their military service.



**MNC-I** Presents  
**SERGEANT MORALES INDUCTION**  
 and AWARD CEREMONY



July 12  
 7 pm  
 Bldg. 43  
 Victory Base



Guest Speaker  
 USAREUR Command Sergeant Major  
 CSM Juniasofua T. Savusa

*Sergeant Morales was a Professional and a Member of the USAREUR TEAM!*

## 898th Medical Detachment (PM)



PRESENTS



### UNIT FIELD SANITATION TEAM CERTIFICATION TRAINING

40-hour training course

Class Dates:

August 28-31 (20 seats available)

Seats are on a first come first serve basis.

TO RESERVE SEATS PLEASE SEND  
 NAME, UNIT, PHONE NUMBER AND E-  
 MAIL ADDRESS TO:

Sgt. TIA SKERBECK

[christia.skerbeck@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:christia.skerbeck@iraq.centcom.mil)

DSN 318-822-2851

**Think safety.**

**Simple  
 precautions will  
 help in an IED  
 attack.**



STAY ALIVE

0065

IEDs KILL

## ACT

**Camp Victory  
 August 6 Sunday**

The Education Center will be closed on the  
 following days:  
 July 23 for Maintenance  
 Aug 20 for Maintenance

Camp Victory Education Center  
 Building 27B  
 (318) 822-5183


## EXAMS

**Education Center  
 Please sign up at the  
 Ed Center by July 28**

July 15, 16 for testing  
 Aug 5, 6 for testing  
 Aug 26, 27 for testing

[educationcenter@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:educationcenter@iraq.centcom.mil)

**VISIT**  
**MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS**  
**and**  
**VICTORY TIMES**  
**ON THE WEB!**



**WWW.MNCI.CENTCOM.MIL**

## Operating hours

### Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.  
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

### Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.

### Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

### Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

### Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

### Golby Troop Medical Clinic

#### Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon  
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

#### Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

#### Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

#### Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

#### Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 7:30 a.m. - noon

#### Legal Assistance/Claims

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

#### Personnel Service Support Centers

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#### ID Cards

Monday - Friday  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



**Faces of Freedom**  
The children of Iraq are important to the future and fate of this country.

Do you have any photo's of the Iraqi children?  
If so, send them to [james.hunter@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:james.hunter@iraq.centcom.mil) to have them published in the Victory Times.

Please provide information of who, what, when and where.





**AL FAW PALACE POST OFFICE**

**HAS MOVED TO THE REAR OF THE PALACE IN THE BLUE CONNEX.**

**SEE DIRECTION SIGNS FOR NEW LOCATION DURING HOURS OF OPERATIONS SUN & WED 2 - 8 pm**

Contact Camp Victory Post Office for any questions. DSN 318-822-2934/4694

Non Denominational

# Prayer Breakfast!

Come renew your Spirit with Prayer and Fellowship with the body of Believers!

**When:** 6 am, Wednesday, July 5, 2006  
**Where:** Oasis DFAC, NBA Room, Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq.

**Outline:**  
0600-0630: Arrive, get food, Fellowship!  
0630-0645: Opening Prayer, prayer requests, Prayer.  
0645-0700: Devotion Message/Closing Prayer.

POC: Col. Stephen Rust DSN: 822-3150  
Maj. Andy Evitts DSN: 822-3835  
Lt. j.g. Ed Jatho DSN: 822-2825

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:4-7

**Worship Opportunities**

**Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)**

**Sunday:**  
Traditional Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.  
Roman Catholic Confession 10 a.m.  
Roman Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.  
Gospel Protestant Services noon  
Latter Day Saints Service 2 p.m.  
Episcopal/Lutheran Service 4 p.m.  
Contemporary Protestant Service 6 p.m.

**Saturday:**  
7th Day Adventist Service 11 a.m.  
Roman Catholic Mass 8 p.m.

**Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)**

**Monday - Friday**  
Roman Catholic Service 4 p.m.

**Friday:**  
Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday:**  
**Orthodox:**  
Orthodox Vespers 5 p.m.  
Orthodox Confession 5:30 p.m.  
Orthodox Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Sunday:**  
Orthodox Divine Liturgy 9 p.m.

### Submit letters from home

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to [brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil). Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to [jason.baker@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:jason.baker@iraq.centcom.mil). We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



**Situational Awareness Leads To A Safer Training Environment.**

Pre-mission planning, controls for diminished conditions, and attention to detail are essential for successful mission accomplishment.

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli  
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing  
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson  
MNC-I Command Info Chief: Sgt. 1st Class Laurence R. Lang  
MNC-I Production Chief: Staff Sgt. Jason B. Baker  
Victory Times Staff writers/ photographers: Spc. Brian James Anderson, Spc. Curt Squires, Spc. James P. Hunter, Lance Cpl. Drew Hendricks

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